

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

REC'D TN  
REGULATORY AUTH.

IN RE: BELL SOUTH'S ENTRY INTO LONG DISTANCE (INTERLATA) SERVICE IN  
TENNESSEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 271 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ACT OF 1996

'99 APR 14 PM 12 00  
OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DOCKET NO. 97-00309

**RESPONSE OF E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO BELL SOUTH  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISMISSAL WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE AND WITHDRAWAL OF ADVANCE NOTICE OF SECTION 271 FILING**

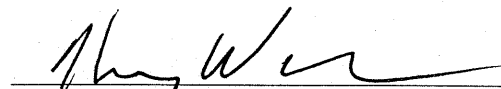
In response to BellSouth's "Notice of Voluntary Dismissal Without Prejudice and Withdrawal of Advance Notice of Section 271 Filing," e.spire (formerly ASCI) recommends that the Tennessee Regulatory Authority issue an order dismissing BellSouth's application and closing this docket.

e.spire also joins NEXTLINK, SECCA, and Sprint in asking the TRA to order BellSouth not to refile its application until the company can demonstrate that it has complied with all the requirements of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act and the FCC's rules interpreting those requirements. Like the FCC, the TRA should insist that BellSouth's filing be complete at the time it is presented to this agency. If BellSouth later decides to amend or supplement its application, the company should withdraw and refile the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 14th day of April, 1999, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via hand-delivery, overnight delivery or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

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